

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/S

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ : U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ORFILA HIGH-
LIGHTS IMPACT ON HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS OF FAILURE TO
CONCLUDE A NEW TREATY

FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE OCCURRED ON THE "MEET THE
PRESS" PROGRAM JULY 20 BETWEEN THE OAS SECRETARY GENERAL
AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF NBC NEWS:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: MR. QUINN: SIR, ON PANAMA, YOU ARE
AWARE OF COURSE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN THE
CONGRESS TO ANY CHANGE IN THE TREATY. TWO VOTES. THE
HOUSE VOTE ON STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS NOT BEING
USED, AND THE SENATE RESOLUTION. THIRTY-SEVEN SENATORS,
ENOUGH TO BLOCK ANY CHANCE.

QUOTE: YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN AROUND THIS TOWN A LONG TIME.
YOU KNOW A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE IN CONGRESS. HOW DO YOU
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ASSESS THE CHANCES OF A NEW TREATY BEING APPROVED BY THE

CONGRESS?

3. QUOTE: MR. ORFILA: YOUR QUESTION, MR. QUINN, IS CRUCIAL BECAUSE I THINK THAT YOU ARE RIGHT. I FRANKLY FEEL THERE IS NOT ENOUGH OPINION IN CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE OUTSTANDING JOB THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS DOING IN

NEGOTIATING WITH THE PANAMANIAN AND I AM VERY GLAD THAT I AM HERE ON THIS MEET THE PRESS PROGRAM BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO ANSWER THAT EMPHATICALLY BY SAYING THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE. IT IS NOT THE ISSUE OF THE PANAMA CANAL. IT IS THE ISSUE OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA, AND A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND AND VERY SOON BECAUSE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO KEEP NEGOTIATING.

4. QUOTE: MR. QUINN: ALL RIGHT, SIR, IF THE ADMINISTRATION DOES COME UP WITH A TREATY, WHICH IT IS EXPECTED TO, AND IF CONGRESS TURNS THAT TREATY DOWN, THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN PANAMA? WILL THERE BE VIOLENCE?

5. QUOTE: MR. ORFILA: DON'T SAY PANAMA. WHAT WE HAVE FROM MEXICO TO ARGENTINA WILL BE A VERY NEGATIVE REACTION. I WOULD HOPE THERE WON'T BE VIOLENCE, BUT, BELIEVE ME, WE WOULD SET BACK THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA MANY, MANY YEARS.
END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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